TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
1920 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
(202) 835-9555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 4, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 29 totaled an estimated 18.9 billion ton-miles, 11.5 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative traffic volume for the first 39 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 702.2 billion ton-miles, 14.9 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 29 totaled 425,522, up 4.5 percent from last year, and 0.5 percent below the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 9.1 percent in the East, 1.6 percent in the South and 3.4 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 14 of the 21 commodity groups decreased, but coal loadings increased by 24,989 cars (22.6 percent). Grain mill products showed a gain of 2,720 cars (21.1 percent). Eleven of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended September 22 totaled 55,351 cars, up 8.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 93,614 trailers and/or containers, 4.9 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 38 weeks of the year was 1,929,804 cars, 15.3 percent higher than last year, and 3,323,063 trailers and/or containers, up 14.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/29/84:

	Loadings in Week ended Sept. 29, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	27,740	D	958	3.3	D	2,566	9.3
Other farm products	3,224	D	709	18.0	D	282	8.7
Metallic ores	18,350	I	2,384	14.9	D	1,953	10.6
Coal	135,321	I	24,989	22.6	D	1,211	0.9
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,755	I	1,885	15.9	I	449	3.3
Nonmetallic minerals	11,551	D	1,685	12.7	D	952	8.2
Grain mill products	10,188	D	2,720	21.1	D	632	6.2
Food and kindred products	11,456	D	1,504	11.6	I	162	1.4
Primary forest products	14,173	D	1,207	7.8	D	200	1.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,848	I	63	0.8	I	358	4.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,610	D	533	3.3	I	685	4.4
Chemicals and allied products	24,908	D	2,321	8.5	D	1,047	4.2
Petroleum products	4,636	D	103	2.2	D	320	6.9
Stone, clay and glass products	11,646	D	593	4.8	D	559	4.8
Coke	5,242	I	7	0.1	I	563	10.7
Metals and products	9,453	D	274	2.8	I	1,162	12.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,489	D	57	0.3	I	2,014	10.3
Waste and scrap materials	9,533	I	143	1.5	D	139	1.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,562	D	1,818	19.4	I	312	4.1
All other carloads	63,627	I	3,597	6.0	I	1,774	2.8
LCL traffic	210	D	127	37.7	I	40	19.0
Total Cars Loaded	425,522	I	18,459	4.5	D	2,342	0.5
Corresponding week of 1983	407,063						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (39 weeks)	15,507,719	13,991,390	I 10.8

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

38 weeks ended September 22	683.3	594.1	I 15.0
Week ended September 29	18.9	17.0	I 11.5
39 weeks cumulative	702.2	611.1	I 14.9

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